



<b>Ref</b>	<b>Applicant and Grant Purpose</b>	<b>£</b>
A2	The Cowshed, Bridport Health & Wellbeing Champions Project – Edible Forest garden. Volunteers plant and maintain fruit bushes & fruit trees and underplant with vegetables & herbs.	500
A3	Bridport Heritage Forum - Mapping Bridport Centre 1921 to record families, use of buildings and occupations a hundred years ago.	350
A4	Bridport & District Citizens Advice - 2 refurbished smartphones for our social media volunteer to communicate social media messaging using Facebook and similar mediums.	500
A5	Gift of India Yoga School - Yoga classes and events to local communities in which the GOI members live. (see note b).	500
A6	The Stepping Out Cancer Rehabilitation Community Group - An exercise and wellbeing programme helping recovery, during & after a diagnosis of cancer.	1,000
A7	Home-Start West Dorset - funding to support the running costs.	1,000
A8	B Sharp - Bridport Boombox – a weekly out of school music making project for young people from Bridport and the surrounding area ages 8-13.	500
A9	Bridport Millennium Green Trust - Restore the entrance at Mountfield which leads to the meadow and wood by clearing, landscaping, resurfacing a walkway and planting.	500
A10	Bridport Young Performers - Rehearsal room hire.	500
A11	Bridport Youth Dance - financial support to help cover some of the cost of costumes for these productions, together with the next Dance Weavers film.	500
A12	Bridport Youth & Community Centre (in partnership with Jo Burlington from Oops Wow Messy Art) - Two free day long drawing events.	400
A13	Gateway Club (West Dorset Mencap) - Club nights are for people who live locally with a learning disability and range from discos, dancing, music and movement sessions. Held at the WI Hall.	500
A14	Unitarian chapel in the Garden on behalf of Jurassic Multicultural Network - running costs of the project covering January – December 2023.	500
A15	Chancery Trips - Door to door transport service led by volunteers to provide day trips.	500
A16	West Dorset Division Guides - division camp for all sections. (see Note c)	500
	<b>Total Grants approved</b>	<b>£8,850</b>

(b) Gift of India Yoga School be provisionally awarded £500 on receipt of further clarification.

(c) West Dorset Division Guides be awarded £500 and to also be advised to seek funding from other town and parish councils.

## **29. INTERNAL AUDIT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 3788.

The finance and Office Manager reported on the second visit that the internal auditors, Lightatouch, had made in February 2023.

He highlighted each section covered under the audit, namely:

- Town Council minutes
- Policies and Procedures
- Bank and cash
- Investments
- TIC Income
- Petty cash
- Risk Assessment
- Budgetary Management
- Income and expenditure
- VAT claims
- Transparency of the Council website

The Auditors reported that whilst checking the period October to December 2022, the records and procedures in place continue to provide a good standard of control, making only minor recommendations regarding the Tourist Information Centre.

Members thanked the Finance and Office Manager for all his work, and discussed:

- The withdrawal of petty cash facilities in line with other councils and considering the small amounts involved.
- The internal auditor's helpful interest in the Community Governance Review.
- An informal meeting with parish councils on 2 March, at which the Town Clerk had set out a plan for the community governance transition and invited input and updates from parish councils.
- The transitional capacity, information gathering and staffing requirements for the community governance transition.

RESOLVED: that the internal audit report and recommendations be received and approved.

### **30. INVESTMENT REVIEW 2022/23 AND STRATEGY 2023/24**

The Town Clerk summarised a report setting out the Council's investments over the past year, and a draft investment strategy, ENCL: 3786. The Finance & Office Manager noted that interest and dividend returns were expected to total approximately £15,000 for 2022/23, against a budget of £8,000

Members considered:

- Investment income over the past year, and the Council's proposed future investment strategy.
- The deferral of actions in relation to ethical investments so that these could be considered alongside the existing arrangements of parish council as part of the Community Governance Review, and noting current difficulties in obtaining new accounts from those banks with a higher ethical rating.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) that the investments made in 2022/23 be noted as in the report; and
- (ii) that the Investment Strategy for 2023/24 be approved as drafted.

**31. ASSET REGISTER**

Councillors considered the Asset Register, ENCL: 3789. The additions and disposals in the year were summarised since the previous year's register. Other minor changes might be required before the financial year end.

RECOMMENDED: that the Asset Register be approved and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to make any final amendments, before it is signed by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk.

**32. ANNUAL TOWN MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

Consideration was given to the draft agenda, ENCL: 3790.

RESOLVED: that the agenda and arrangements for the Annual Town Meeting be agreed.

The meeting closed at **11.40am**

**The next meeting of this Sub Committee will be on 6 June 2023**